TL4654

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 16, 1999

Hon. William Jefferson Clinton
President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We are writing to encourage strong United States support for Indonesia and East Timor during a political transition process for East Timor.

The negotiations between Indonesia and Portugal over the political status of East Timor have made tremendous progress in recent weeks. We are hopeful that these talks will be completed shortly and will result in a framework for East Timorese independence, but we are concerned about ensuring fair and transparent balloting, and a peaceful transition process that protects human rights and democratic principles.

We strongly urge you to make it very clear to the parties to the negotiations and East Timorese leaders that the United States stands ready and willing to assist in this transition. To ensure a successful and peaceful transition to an independent and democratic East Timor, the United States must be ready to offer bilateral political and economic assistance to East Timor and Indonesia. The United States must also support United Nations and international community efforts to encourage a careful and measured transition that avoids creating a power vacuum in East Timor, which would almost certainly lead to bloodshed.

We want to commend you, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, and Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth for your commitment to the people of Indonesia and East Timor. We look forward to continuing to work with you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Nita Lowey
Member of Congress

John Porter
Member of Congress

Nancy Pelosi
Member of Congress

Frank Wolf
Member of Congress

Howard L. Berman

Tony P. Hall

Robert T. Matsui

Donald M. Payne

Joe Moakley

Barney Frank

Jerrold Nadler

Jim Oberstar

Tom Lantos

Lynn N. Rivers

Jane Evans

Peter King

Chris Smith

Jim Greenwood

Phil English

Jerrold Nadler

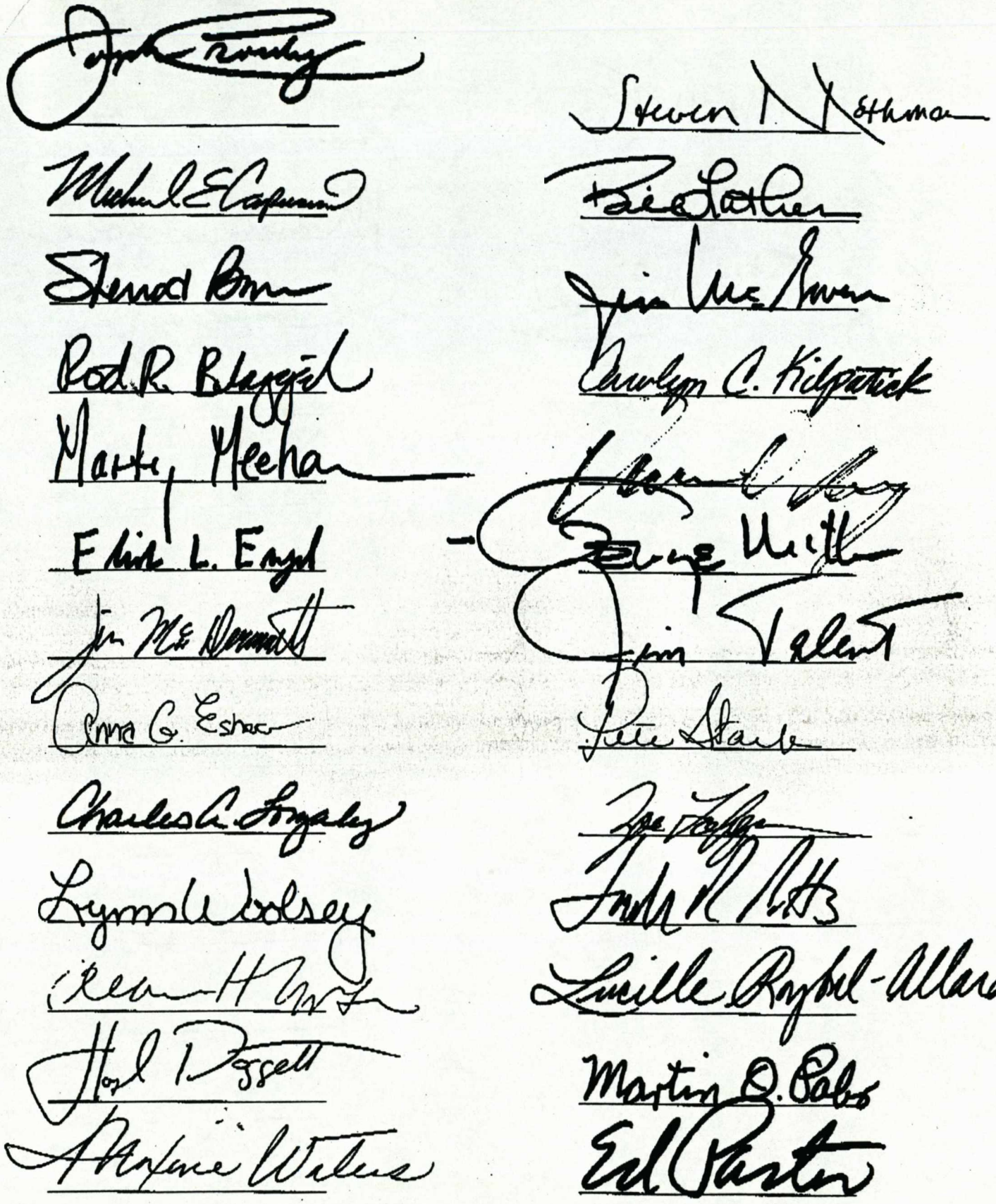
Lynn V. Rivers

Lonnie Morella

Ed Markey

Joe Hoeffel

John W. Olver



Matthew D. Mulvey

Tammy Baldwin

Cyrus McFarland

James A. McGovern

Richard K. McCarthy

Mark Udall

Jim Oberstar